

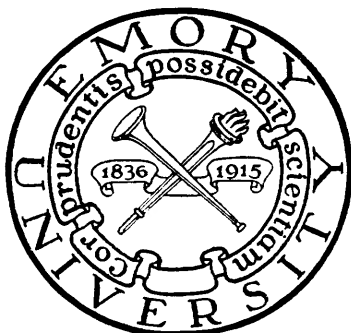


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SERIES

DAYS OF THE SPINNING-WHEEL



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THE DAYS OF THE SPINNING-WHEEL
IN NEW ENGLAND

"To say that the past is of no importance, unworthy of a moment's regard, because it has gone by, and is no longer anything, is an argument that cannot be held to any purpose; for if the past has ceased to be, and is therefore to be accounted nothing in the scale of good or evil, the future is yet to come, and has never been anything." — HAZLITT.

*"In my young days, when I was leetle,
The only steam came from the kettle.*

.

*"The Gals on good old Dobbins rid then,
But folks don't do as they used to did then.*

.

*"Heigho! I grieve, I grieve
For the good old days of Adam and Eve."*

FROM HENRY J. FINN'S "Good Old Times,"
October, 1827.

THE OLDEN TIME SERIES

GLEANINGS CHIEFLY FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS OF BOSTON
AND SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

SELECTED AND ARRANGED, WITH BRIEF COMMENTS

BY

HENRY M. BROOKS

* *

The Days of the Spinning-Wheel in New England

"Old and new make the warp and woof of every moment. There is no thread that is not a twist of these two strands. By necessity, by proclivity, and by delight, we all quote." — EMERSON



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TICKNOR AND COMPANY

1886

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THE DAYS OF THE SPINNING-WHEEL IN NEW ENGLAND.

WITHIN the last few years many young ladies have searched country houses or ransacked old garrets to find spinning-wheels, which, like old chairs, tall clocks, and warming-pans, have now become objects of curiosity and interest to those who take a fancy to antique articles. It has become fashionable to have these things to adorn our Queen Anne houses. And brass andirons and shovels and tongs have come into request, so that we may enjoy the luxury of an open wood fire, which, to our mind, is one of the most cheerful things in this world. Some one has remarked "that to be well-dressed gives a feeling of satisfaction

that religion fails to give ;” but to us, to sit before a blazing wood fire on a dull, cold evening, gives a feeling of comfort and delight which surpasses anything we know of. What charming companionship in a wood fire ! Better than the company of uncongenial persons.

“ Old wood to burn,”

“ Old books to read :”

these are enough ; we will leave out the “ old wine to drink.”

“ This bright wood fire,
So like to that which warmed and lit
My youthful days, how doth it flit
Back on the periods nigher !
Re-lighting and re-warming with its glow
The bright scenes of my youth, — all gone out now.”

Glance backward to some years before the Revolution, and we shall find a spinning-wheel in every house, and then, probably, in constant use. Now its place in our homes is taken by the piano. This instrument had not then come into use. Something resembling it, — namely, the spinnet or the harpsichord, — was to be found in some instances ; but it was by no means common to find these, for there was but little knowledge of music in America in

those days. A hundred years ago, only one or two churches in Boston had organs, and the public taste, except in rare cases, was decidedly against music of all kinds, especially sacred music. To show how this was, we have heard an old lady say that when she was young, some eighty years or so ago, "musicians, for the most part, were not thought much of" by the most cultivated people of that time; and she assured me that even at a later date, members of military bands, as well as organists and violinists (then called fiddlers) were too often low characters and men much addicted to drinking. The times were too hard for the New England people of those days to cultivate music or indulge in entertainments of any kind except "going to meeting." There was but little money in circulation, and that was almost always in the form of a depreciated currency. Gold and silver were scarce articles, and a large proportion of the necessities of life and luxuries—if luxuries they could be called; they would hardly be so considered by us—were imported from England or elsewhere. The leading occupations were farming, fishing, making New England

rum, importing rum, sugar, and molasses from the West Indies, and dry goods from England. The common people were poor enough, in comparison with the condition of the same class at the present time, when they make as good an appearance as the wealthy did a hundred years ago. It would be safe to say that they have more comforts and conveniences in their homes to-day than the more prosperous had at the time of the Revolution. The humorist, John Phenix, said that "Gen'l Washington never saw a steamboat, nor rode in a railroad car;" and possibly his house was not heated by steam, or furnished with pipes for hot and cold water. Nor did he ever use gas, or the telegraph or telephone. Whether the people who lived then would have shown the extravagance which characterizes our time if they had possessed the means, is a question not easily to be answered; but it is certain they were more frugal than we are, if not more industrious. The Revolution left the masses of the people in rather a destitute condition, and they were forced to be economical. Their habits were so entirely different from modern habits that it would exceed our limits to under-

take to draw a careful comparison. It is said that the people of those days bewailed the degeneracy of the times, and spoke of the industry and frugality of earlier periods.

NORWICH, May 6, 1784.

A correspondent observes, that the extravagances of the present day are fully demonstrated in the broad-cloth coats and silk gowns,—the powder and feathers, the ruffles and cardinals, the silk stockings and feet trappings—In the feasts, the dancing parties and select companies—and what is the more melancholy, all orders and degrees help form the circle.—Where is the simplicity in dress and manners; temperance in meats and drinks, which formed the virtuous characters of our illustrious ancestors?—O! the degeneracy of the times!

Salem Gazette.

Just as our ancestors did, as Macaulay says, in the days of Charles the First; they thought they were not as good as their ancestors had been. This habit of looking back to a time so remote that “distance lends enchantment to the view,” seems to be almost universal. It is this feeling of reverence for the old that makes it so interesting to us, and leads us to look at things of the past poetically rather than

practically ; although it is true that sometimes the interest taken in inconvenient and uncomfortable articles arises rather from their age than from anything else. But oftentimes the very simplicity, solidity, and strength of old furniture, for instance, is charming, in contrast with the elaborate, unmeaning carvings and flimsy character of more modern productions. We are beginning to see how much more sensible the Chippendale and other styles commended by Eastlake and some other writers on household art are to much that has been produced in later times. Yet we must allow that prejudice and fashion go a great way in determining our likes and dislikes, in furniture as well as in dress and other things. Very likely in a few years we shall tire of the Queen Anne houses and furniture, and hard floors, and have a surfeit of *Anglomania*, especially if we carry the taste too far. In this country, as Emerson says, "Every rider drives too fast." It is hard to be simple and slow. We must build fast, eat fast, and live fast. But Emerson says again, "Nature has no respect for haste." Herbert Spencer has given us in a

kindly spirit some hints on this score which it would be well to heed. But we are wandering from our immediate subject. Our desire is to illustrate, in the very words of the people of the period we refer to, the views they entertained of economy and industry, and how they carried them out. We will begin, then, in the year 1759, with a curious letter to the "Boston Gazette" of June 11 of that year, in which the writer gives some account of the cost of provisions at that period.

To the Trading and Farming People of New England.

GENTLEMEN.

I Have been coming and going among you since the Year 1745. I am now once more on Service in this Part of the World, and not a little surprized at the Alteration in the Value of your Provisions, since my Knowledge of your Country. When I first came among you, I could have bought a Pound of Beef for a Penny, a Goose for a Shilling, a Fowl for three Pence, and so in Proportion. It now is, I think, four Pence Sterling for a Pound of Beef, eighteen Pence Sterling for a Fowl, and three Shillings for a Goose. Pray Gentlemen, when that is the Price at *Boston*, what must we pay for it at *Louisbourg*, after it has gone thro' the Hands of many different People that are to live out of it. Our Pay is not increafed.

I would say nothing to influence you to sell cheaper, from Motives disinterested or publick spirited, as that weighs but little with the Generality of Mankind. But consider your own Interest, the War can last but little longer: This Campaign, in all Probability, will put an End to it, then where will you find a Market for your Stock you raise. Consider with the Fall of this present Summer, its pretty certain the Soldiers and Seamen at present employed for your Defence, will be called to Britain: Take the Market while it holds Gentlemen. We have Beef found us, that is to say, the Publick purchases it; let us now and then taste of your Veal, Mutton and Fowls for our Money, and we will spend all among you; and we expect both Interest and Inclination will prompt you to give us an ample Supply.

I am your Friend, *An ANTI-CANADIAN.*

In the same paper is an auction advertisement, showing how they mixed the different kinds of *property*.

TO be Sold by publick Vendue on *Scarlet's Wharff*, at the North End of *Boston*, THIS AFTER-NOON, at IV o'Clock, Sundry Hogheads of Sugar, four likely Negro Men, and a Parcel of old Copper; Prize Goods lately brought into this Port.

On the 19th November we are shown how remittances were made in those days.

We hear that the Treafurer of this Province has received a Bill of Lading for two Boxes of Portugal Gold, fhip'd by Mr. Agent Bollan, on board the Mercury Man of War, amounting to Twenty thousand fix hundred and eighty Pounds, feventeen fhillings and fix Pence; being Part of the £27,000 granted by Parliament in 1757, to this Province, to recompence them for the Expences they were at in the Expedition in 1756.—Said Ship may be daily expected.

And here is a description of a vessel of the time.

Mr. James Hudfon came Paffenger in the Veffel that arriv'd at Cape-Ann, mention'd in our laft, which faw a Wreck in Lat: 36, he fays, fhe was a Frigate built Ship of about 200 Tons burthen, had a Lion Head painted yellow, a fhort Topgal on Quarter-Deck, a fmall Taffrail painted yellow, Quarters and Stern painted blue, had a large Trophies painted on her Stern and gilt, full of Water, and no living Perfon on board.

On the 5th February in that year, this was the way they advertised for recruits for the Gov-

ernment service, offering among other inducements, “a Crown to drink the King’s health.”

ALL able-bodied fit Men that have an Inclination to serve His Majesty King GEORGE the Second, in the first Independent Company of Rangers, now in the Province of *Nova-Scotia*, commanded by *Joseph Gorham, Esq*; shall, on enlisting, receive good Pay and Cloathing, a large Bounty, with a Crown to drink the King’s Health. And by repairing to the Sign of the Bear in King-Street, *Boston*, and to Mr. *Cornelius Crocker*, Innholder in *Barnstable*, may hear the particular Encouragement, and many Advantages accruing to a Soldier, in the Course of the Duty of that Company, too long to insert here; and further, may depend on being discharged at the Expiration of the Time entertained for, and to have every other Encouragement punctually compli’d with.

There was a meeting of “very agreeable Ladies” in the interests of economy about the same time.

In a large Circle of very agreeable Ladies in this Town, it was unanimously agreed to lay aside the Use of Ribbons, &c. &c. &c. for which there has been so great a Resort to Milliners in times past — It is hoped that this Resolution will be followed by others of the Sex throughout the Province — *How*

agreeable will they appear in their native Beauty, stript of these Ornaments, from the prevailing Motive of Love to their Country.

We must after all our Efforts, depend greatly upon the Female Sex for the Introduction of Oeconomy among us: And those who have the Pleasure of an Acquaintance with them, assure us that their utmost Aid will not be wanting.

So strong is the Disposition of the Inhabitants of this Town to take off the Manufactures that come from the Country Towns, especially Womens and Childrens Winter Apparel, that nothing is wanting but an Advertisement where they may be had in Town, which will be taken in, and published by the Printers of this Paper *Gratis*.

Labrador tea began to take the place of green and bohea.

Messieurs EDES & GILL,

THE use of *Hyperion* or *Labradore Tea*, is every day coming into more general vogue among people of all ranks. The virtues of the plant or shrub from which this delicate *Tea* is gathered, were first discovered by the *Aborigines*, and from them the *Canadians* learned them. It soon became into such repute that quantities were sent to *France*, where I have heard say, it was soon in such demand, as alarmed the *French East-India* company, and procured

an ordinance prohibiting the importation of any more on the pain of death. So little do some politicians regard the health or even the life of man, when either of them appear to be incompatible with their particular interests, views and projects. Before the cession of *Canada* to *Great-Britain*, we knew little or nothing of this most excellent herb: but since that we have been taught to find it growing on every hill and dale, between the Lat. 40 & 60. It is to be found all over New-England in great plenty, and that of the best quality, particularly on the banks of *Penobscot*, *Kennebec*, *Nichewannock* and *Merrimac*. Immense quantities may be found on the mountains near the great lakes.

Nothing short of the highest degree of infatuation and madness could ever have prevailed with us to introduce unwholesome Exoticks. The voice of reason cries louder than ever for their perpetual banishment; and the further use of them must be accounted for but by the force of invincible prejudice. This indeed sometimes leads to a preference of rank poison if far fetched and dear bought, to the most salubrious draught at hand, with little pains or cost, tho' of inestimable value.

A TEA-DRINKER.

The following items, Sept. 17, 1759, throw some light on the state of the country in some

parts of New England, where, even if the "Lyons" once seen at Cape Ann by Wood had departed, there were still some bears, one having been seen within two miles of Boston.

We hear from Brentwood, in New Hampshire Government, as two Children were gathering Beans in a Field, a large Bear came upon them and kill'd them both;—The Bear was pursued, but could not be found.

Also from Chefter, in the same Government, that a few Days after the above, another Bear came behind a Woman as she was walking along, not far from her House, and tore off the hind Part of her Gown, which he carried off in his Mouth;—but the Woman happily made her Escape from him.

And from Kingston, in the County of Worcester, we hear, that on Tuesday last as Mr. Stephen Clark of that Town was out a Hunting after Bears, his Next Door Neighbour went out into his Cornfield just at Evening, and seeing something move which he thought was one of those Animals, shot at it, and upon his coming to the place, found it to be Mr. Clark as above-mention'd, shot thro' his Head, to his great surprize.

We hear from Kittery, that in about 13 Days past, seven large Bears have been kill'd within a Mile of the Rev. Mr. Rogers's Meeting House.

It is said some of these voracious Animals have ventured down even to some of the Seaport Towns

at the Eastward.—Two of them were seen at Medford last Week ; and one of them has been lately killed within two Miles of this Metropolis. Some have weighed above 300 lb. Wt.

Notice to Students of Harvard College :

THIS is to give Notice to the Candidates for their second Degree at Harvard-College this Year, That they attend at the College by the 11th Day of July next, and if any shall neglect their Attendance accordingly, without sufficient Reason therefor, they may not expect their said Degrees this Year. Cambridge, June 9, 1759.

EDWARD HOLYOKE, President.

NOTICE is hereby given to all who desire an Admission into Harvard College this Year, That the President and Tutors have determined to attend the Business of Examination on Friday and Saturday the 19th and 20th Days of July next.

Cambridge, June 9, 1759. EDWARD HOLYOKE, Pres.

When we remember the present condition of the city of Lynn, it is interesting to note how that place stood in reference to the shoe industry in the year 1762. The “Boston Gazette” of November 2 says:—

We are confidently told, that in the Town of Lynn upwards of Forty Thousand Pair of Womens Shoes have been made in one Year, equal in Goodness to any imported from Abroad—It is thought that in a few Years they will be supply'd with Callimanco and other Stuffs manufactured in this Province.

The statement has often been made by connoisseurs that there was no mahogany furniture in America before the Revolution; but this is a mistake, for here, in the "Boston Gazette" of Feb. 5, 1759, is an advertisement announcing the sale of a "Beautiful Mehogany Desk and Book-Case." Probably this was an early specimen of such kind of work, as mahogany, it is said, was not introduced into Europe long before this time.

To be Sold by Moses Defhon,

On Dock-Square, Next Wednesday, at V o'Clock, in the Afternoon, and Friday Evening following.

A Handsome 8 Day Clock, a Brass Grate, Shovel Fire, Tongs, Tables, and a Variety of other Articles; a fine Assortment of English, Scotch, and French Goods. N. B. A beautiful Mehogany Desk and Book-Case; and a Quantity of Cannon-Powder to dispose of at private Sale.

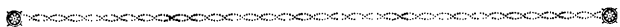
A curious advertisement of a runaway convict in Maryland appears in the same paper, Sept. 15, 1759:—

Fifteen Pistoles Reward.

R A N - A W A Y from the Subscriber, (living at ANNAPOLIS, in MARYLAND) in *June* last, a Convict Servant Man, named *Thomas Read*, alias *Cutbert*, about 25 or 30 Years of Age, 5 Feet, 4 Inches high, well fet, grey Eyes, large Nose, and had short brown curl'd Hair. He is supposed to be in *Boston*, or some of the Northern Governments; is a Jeweller, and Motto-Ring-Engraver, and is an artful talkative pert Fellow;—can write pretty well, and has doubtless help'd himself to a Discharge, Pass, or any other Writing to deceive, and suit his Purpose; His Apparel is probably genteel, as he had Money with him, a Watch in his Pocket, and a large Stock of Pride; By what Name he now goes is uncertain, as he has Impudence eno to pick & chuse any he should think proper.

Whoever takes the said Convict Servant, and returns him to his Master, shall have FIFTEEN PISTOLES Reward, and reasonable Charges paid, by

Annapolis, September 15, JOHN INCH.
1759.



BOSTON, Printed and Sold by EDES & GILL. 1759.

In the year 1762 there appears to have been quite a stir in reference to economy and home productions, and doubtless the spinning-wheels were constantly in use. In the "Boston Gazette," November 2, is a very curious letter of Henry Flynt, a noted teacher, addressed to the ladies of North America.

To the LADIES of NORTH AMERICA.

LADIES,

I *AM one of those who think it not only high Time but of the last Importance, that you should be publicly addressed: And of the many ingenious Pens, which in the Course of a few Years have informed and enlightened this Country, I have often wished that at least some one of them had been more particularly devoted to your Service. This would have agreeably prevented me in an attempt to which I find myself in all Respects but too unequal. Yet relying on your good Sense and Candour, I venture to lay at your Feet a few well-intended Sentiments, which tho' in a plain homespun Garb, I hope will not offend. I am convinced that at this present it is not only in your Inclination and Will, but also in your Power, to effect more in favour of your Country, than an Army of an Hundred Thousand Men; and indeed more than all the armed Men on this vast Continent.—Can a Woman forget her Ornaments? Yes I know she can. Deborah once judged Israel, and some think it was never judged much*

better afterwards. But what tho't Deborah or Jael of their Ornaments, when the one was contriving, & the other driving the Nail that would go? What tho't beautiful Esther of her Ornaments, when those of her Kindred & Household were in immediate and imminent Danger, by the Decree treacherously obtained by Haman, from the mouth of her beloved and almost adored Lord Ahasuerus the Great? What tho't Judith of her Ornaments, when she was severing the Head of Holofernes from his Body, or while flying with the Prize to the Relief of her despairing Friends? The Time would fail me, were I to recount the wondrous Deeds and mighty Atchievements of renowned and honorable Women in all Ages.

I have but alluded to a few Instances, among many of divine Heroism in your Sex, which hath often saved a Country, when the dull plodding Wisdom of man has been totally at a Plunge. How near we are to such a Crisis, is left to the Conjecture of others. It would be a little out of Nature to expect the Birth and Exploits of Heroines to take Place before those of Heroes. I believe we shall be furnished with both in their Order, as Occasion may require. All I think at present that can be reasonably expected or desired of you, is to consent to lay aside all superfluous Ornaments for a Season—after which they shall be surely returned to you again with Interests.—You shall be cloathed in Purple, and Scarlet, and Fine Linnen of our own, and with other glorious Apparel; which, if possible, shall add a Lustre to your native Charms.

HENRY FLYNT.

Newport, R. I., has the reputation of having been engaged in the slave-trade before the Revolution; and the following item, in the "Boston Gazette," June 30, 1762, noticing without comment the arrival of a Guinea trader there, would seem to show it to have been not an uncommon occurrence.

We hear from Newport, Rhode Island, That Capt. Carpenter was arrived there from the Coast of Guinea, having had 104 Days Passage, ten Days whereof they were without Meat, but had a Sufficiency of Rice and Corn. They lost but six Slaves out of 69 they bro't out with them.

On the 5th of November "the gunpowder treason and plot" was formerly pretty generally remembered, — by the boys, at least, who made bonfires and burned tar-barrels. We believe the custom has fallen into disuse except in Salem and Marblehead, where there seems to be a little "Colonialism" left. As recently as 1885 the writer saw a bonfire in honor of the occasion on a hill near the latter place. In 1762 there must have been quite a demonstration, if we can judge any-

thing by a vote of the town of Boston. Englishmen visiting us have sometimes expressed astonishment at learning that this curious custom should still be kept up here, while it had been abolished at home.

Upon a motion made, *Voted*, That the Town will take all proper Measures, by keeping in their Children and Servants, & other Ways, to prevent the Disturbances which have sometimes happened on or about the 5th Day of November.

Attest,

William Cooper, *Town-Clerk*.

Tuesday last (5th November) being the Anniversary of the happy Deliverance of the British Nation from the Popish Powder Plot, at Noon the Guns at Castle William and at the Batteries in this Town were fired: At One all the nine Men of War then in this Harbour also fired.

From the *Essex Gazette*, Nov. 12, 1771.

The accommodation offered for travel between Boston and New York before the Revolution must have been slim enough, judging from an advertisement in the "Boston

Gazette" in 1761. Passengers then went by vessel from Providence; that is, "Gentlemen Passengers." Whether ladies were accommodated or not, does not appear; but perhaps they were in the habit of going by stage, taking a week or so to accomplish the journey, or, more than likely, few ever travelled at all in those times. In our day, when every one is on the move, it is hard to realize this state of things.

Notice is Given, That SAMUEL and WILLIAM CHACE, of Providence, have a suitable Vessel that goes steadily between there and New-York. So that all Gentlemen Passengers and others that incline to take the Rout from Boston to New-York, or from New-York to Boston, may be well accommodated.

Providence, Aug. 29, 1761.

"In 1756," Watson says, "the first stage was started between Philadelphia and New York by Mr. Butler; three days through in summer time, five and six in winter. In 1765 a second stage was started, to go through positively in three days. This was a covered

Jersey wagon, — fare, twopence per mile. In 1766 another stage, called the ‘Flying Machine,’ was started, to go through in two days, — threepence per mile.”

A brief account of Montreal in the “Boston Gazette,” March 30, 1761.

NEW-YORK, March 23.

Extract of a Letter from Montreal.

— “The Cafe of the poor Canadians is really deplorable, occasioned by the bankruptcy of the crown of France. Many of them who had, with great danger and labour, acquired estates worth 20,000 l. sterl. by the fur-trade, or otherwise, can now scarce procure a dinner. All their remittances from their mother country, consisted in bills on the French King, which are not now worth one farthing, as no body whatever will accept of them in payment. It is computed there is above the value of 3,000,000 l. sterling of these ufeless paper scraps, circulated through the colony, which, as a reward to the wretched inhabitants for all their hardships and fatigues, must now supply the place of affluence and independence. Most, if not all of them, are perfectly reconciled to the British government, as they can now with security enjoy any little property they have; whereas formerly, Governor Vaudreuil made no ceremony of seizing the produce

of their lands, their merchandize and manufactures of every kind, and after conveying them to the King's store houses, paid to the proprietors any price he pleased. If the owners thereafter had occasion for any of their own commodities, they could not procure them under twenty times the price they had received.

"Montreal in general is a well built town, but incapable of any defence. The churches are elegant, and the houses of some of their principal men are really magnificent; though few in number. The Hotel Dieu is by far the finest hospital I ever saw, every thing in it is extremely neat and convenient.

"The people here are extravagantly fond of dress; a stranger would take Montreal to be a city inhabited by none but the rich and idle: they are all finely powdered, walk with their hats under their arms, and wear long coats, adorned with tinsel lace, and buttoned down to the extremity. Since I came here, I have not seen one man dressed like a tradesman. The ladies in general are handsome, extremely gay, and well bred."

In 1767 the best soap and "dipt" and "mould" candles were sold at the post-office in Boston, according to an advertisement in the "Gazette" of October 26. The candles were made of tallow, and gave but little light, requiring almost constant snuffing. Other kinds of

candles were not in general use in New England in the last century. Sperm oil and sperm or wax candles could be used only by the wealthy. Many families, for economy, made their own candles. This practice was common in New England down to within fifty years.

It will be recollected that Dr. Franklin's father was a tallow-chandler in Boston, and that the Doctor himself worked at the business when a boy. Elizabeth Franklin, whose name appears in the following advertisement, was probably a relative of the family.

~~~~~  
SOLD BY

*Elizabeth Franklin,*

At the Post-Office,

**T**HE best true Crown Soap,  
Alicant best hard Soap, by the Doz. or single  
Pound, dipt and mould Candles at the lowest Price.

~~~~~

—◆—
Every week the burials and baptisms in Boston were thus inserted in the papers. The following is from the "Gazette" of Nov. 23, 1767: —

Buried in the Town of Boston since our last,
 Five Whites. Three Blacks.
 Baptiz'd in the several Churches, Four.

This custom was continued many years. We take the following from the "Massachusetts Centinel," April 2, 1788:—

BURIED in town last week 11 — BAPTISED 14.

Published by BENJAMIN RUSSELL, near the
 State-House, Boston.

General Wolfe's Manifesto from the "Boston Gazette," Dec. 10, 1759.

AS the Manifesto lately published was only a Translation from a French Manuscript, we are requested to publish the following, which is

General WOLFE's Manifesto,
as written by Himself.

THE formidable Sea and Land Armament which the People of *Canada* now behold in the Heart of their Country is intended by the King my Master to check the insolence of *France*;—To revenge the Insults offered to the

British Colonies, and totally deprive the *French* of their most valuable Settlements in *North-America*.

FOR these Purposes only is the Formidable Army under my Command intended.

THE King of *Great-Britain* wages no War with the Industrious Peasant, the sacred Orders of Religion, or the defenceless Women and Children: To these in their distressful Circumstances His Royal Clemency offers Protection. The People may remain unmolested on their Lands, inhabit their Houses, and enjoy their Religion in Security. For these inestimable Blessings, I expect the *Canadians* will take no Part in the Great Contest between the two Crowns; But if by a vain Obstinacy, and misguided Valour, they presume to appear in Arms, they must expect the most fatal Consequences; their Habitations destroyed, their sacred Temples exposed to the Fury of an exasperated Soldiery; their Harvest utterly ruined, and the only Passage of Relief stopped up by a most formidable Fleet.—In this unhappy Situation, and closely attacked by another great Army, what can the wretched Natives expect from Opposition!

THE unparelled Barbarities exerted by the *French* against our Settlements in *America*, might justify the bitterest Revenge in the Army under my Command; but *Britons* breathe higher Sentiments of Humanity, and listen to the merciful Dictates of the Christian Religion. Yet should you suffer yourselves to be deluded by an imaginary Prospect of our want of Success; should you refuse those Terms, and persist

in Opposition; Then surely will the Law of Nations justify the Waste of War, so necessary to crush an ungenerous Enemy: and Then, the miserable *Canadians* must in the Winter have the Mortification of seeing those very Families, they have been exerting a fruitless and indiscreet Bravery for, perish by the most dismal Want and Famine.

IN this great Dilemma let the Wisdom of the People of *Canada* shew itself!

BRITAIN stretches out a powerful, yet a merciful Hand, Faithful to her Engagements, and ready to secure them in their most valuable Rights and Possessions.

FRANCE, unable to support *Canada*, deserts her Cause at this important Crisis, and during the whole War has assisted her with Troops, who have been maintained *only* by making the Natives feel all the Weight of grievous and lawless Oppression.

JAMES WOLFE.

Boston, *November 2, 1761.*

Last Evening, just at Eight o'Clock, this Town was alarmed with the Shock of an EARTHQUAKE.

Gazette.

On the 15th of August, 1763, the “ Boston Post-Boy ” gives the following account of the celebration of a royal birthday :—

B O S T O N, August 15.

On Friday being the Birth-Day of the *Prince of Wales*, and the Anniversary of the Accession of the House of *Hanover*, and also of the Surrender of the *Havanna*, which was the immediate Means of bringing about the Peace ; at One o’Clock the Guns at the Castle and Town Batteries were Fired ; and in the Evening his Excellency the Governor gave a Ball at Concert Hall. There were present about 240 Gentlemen and Ladies ; the Ball was opened by General *Shirley* and the Governor’s Lady about 8 o’Clock ; the Country Dances began about nine, and about ten a Supper Room was opened, where was a very handsome Collation. The Ladies made a brilliant Appearance, and the Company expressed the highest Pleasure and Satisfaction on the Occasion, and broke up about two in the Morning. The whole was conducted with the greatest Order, Elegance and Decorum.

The great military “ occasion ” of those days was the annual parade of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. In June, 1763,

that Company celebrated its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary. In the "Boston Post-Boy" of June 13 we have this account: —

Monday last, agreeable to ancient Custom, the Artillery Company of the Province, appeared under Arms, being the Anniversary of the Election of Officers for the Company: A Sermon was preached by the Rev'd Mr. *Balch* of *Dedham*, at the Old Brick Meeting-House, where his Excellency the Governor, the Members of his Majesty's Council and House of Representatives, with a Number of other Gentlemen, attended; after which they proceeded to Faneuil-Hall, where an elegant Dinner was provided; and in the Afternoon the following Gentlemen were chosen for the ensuing Year, viz.

Thomas Marshall, Esq; Captain,
Mr. *Josiah Waters*, Lieutenant,
Mr. *Jeremiah Belknap*, Ensign.

In the Evening a plentiful Repast was given by the Officers newly elected, at Faneuil-Hall; where many loyal Healths were drank.

After the great fire in Boston in March, 1760, this item appeared in the "Gazette" of May 19: —

We hear that *Charles Ward Apthorp*, Esq; of *N.-York*, Merchant, upon hearing of the Calamity which had befallen this Town by the late dreadful Fire, generously ordered his Agent here to pay to the Gentlemen appointed to receive the Donations of charitable dispos'd Persons the Sum of *One Hundred Pounds*, L. M. for the Relief of the Sufferers.

Mr. Apthorp, of New York, made this generous donation — a large sum for that time — for the relief of the sufferers of his native place.

On the 30th of March, 1761, the “Boston Gazette” prints the following among its items of news: —

The following Proverbs we hope will not be disregarded, tho' taken from a Book in the Hands of almost every Freeholder in this Province; for they are true English Proverbs —

LOOK before you leap — *Wise Men think twice before they act once — Avoidance is better than late Repentance — Put your Hand in the Lion's Mouth, then get it out if you can — Haste makes Waste — Fast bind fast find — A Wedge once enter'd, the Log flies — You may add, when you cannot take away — Cut your Coat*

according to your Cloth — A rash Beginning makes a foolish Ending — Better late than never — He that acts for others, should act with Caution — Once well done is twice done — A wise Man foreseeth the Storm and secureth himself — Of all Murderers, Self-Murderers are the most stupid. — A Snake in the Grass may bite before it is seen.

A Word to the Wife is sufficient. AMEN.

BOSTON IN OLDEN TIMES. — The “Boston Transcript,” in a notice of the newspapers published in Boston in 1767, of which there were ten, says: The printer in those days was a man of “all work.” If a negro or horse was up for sale, the printer was the seller. The advertisements in these old papers are curiosities in their line. The following notices appeared in the advertising columns of the “Boston Evening Gazette,” in 1741:—

“To be sold by the Printer of this Paper, the very best negro woman in this town, who has had the small pox and the measles; is as hearty as a horse, as brisk as a bird, and will work like a beaver.”

“To be sold by the Printer of this Paper, a negro man about thirty years old, who can do both town and country business very well, but will suit the country best; where they have not so many dram-

shops as we have in Boston. He has worked at the printing business fifteen or sixteen years ; can handle axe, saw, spade, hoe, or other instrument of husbandry, as well as most men, and values himself, and is valued by others, for his skill in cookery.”

This item, from a paper of 1767, seems to show that the Government was not then obliged to have a “bill” to uphold silver, for it was evidently in the ascendancy ; but there was no Western territory at that time, or rather, it had not been discovered.

Gold as well as Silver will be taken for the Tickets, and the Prizes paid off in like Manner. Prizes not demanded within Twelve Months after Drawing, will not be paid, but will be deem'd as generously given for the Purpose aforesaid, and applied accordingly.

Tickets to be had of the respective Managers, and of Edes and Gill.

Fashionable weddings in the days of the spinning-wheel were not so fully described as they are at the present day. Nothing used

to be said about the “magnificent dresses,” “best man,” “ushers,” “contracting parties,” “elegant presents,” etc., etc.; there was a simple announcement of the fact. Here are specimens of marriage announcements, — persons belonging to the first families in Boston.

“Boston Gazette,” Feb. 5, 1759.

Last Thursday Morning, was married at King’s-Chappel, Dr. THOMAS BULFINCH, Son of the late Dr. BULFINCH of this Town, to Mrs. SUSAN AP-THORPE, Daughter of the late CHARLES AP-THORPE, Esq; The Rev’d Mr. AP-THORPE perform’d the Ceremony, before a very great Number of Spectators.

“Columbian Centinel,” March 26, 1788.

— Mr. THOMAS H. PERKINS, merchant, to Miss SALLY ELLIOT, only daughter of Mr. SIMON ELLIOT.

“Gazette,” Jan. 26, 1767.

BOSTON, January 26, 1767.

Tuesday the Honorable JOHN TEMPLE, Esq; Surveyor-General of North-America, was married to Miss BOWDOIN, Daughter of the Honorable JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq; of this Town.

Specimen of a house in "Corn-Hill," from the "Post-Boy," May 7, 1763.



TO BE SOLD,
A Large and Co-
modious Brick Dwelling-
House, pleasantly situated in
Corn-Hill : For farther par-
ticulars Enquire of Green & Russell Printers in
Queen-Street.

The "Virginia Gazette" gives an account of an early and bold attempt at British impressment of seamen. This business caused us a great deal of trouble in after years, and was one of the causes of "Madison's War," as the old people were fond of calling it.

The press-gang was one of the peculiar institutions of Great Britain.

BOSTON, October 26, 1767.

By the Virginia Gazette, of the first Instant, it appears that Captain Morgan, of the Hornet Sloop of War, concerted a bloody riotous Plan, to impress Seamen, at Norfolk, for which Purpose, his Tender was equipped with Guns and Men, and under Cover of the Night said Morgan landed at a public Wharff, having first made proper Dispositions either for an Attack or Retreat, then went to a Tavern, and took

a chearful Glaſs, after which they went to work, and took every Perſon they met with, and knocked all down that reſiſted ; and dragged them on board the Tender ; but the Town ſoon took the Alarm, and being headed by Paul Loyal, Eſq ; a Magiſtrate, they endeavoured to convince Capt. Morgan of his Error, and being deaf to all they ſaid he ordered the People in the Tender to fire on the Inhabitants, but they reſuſed to obey their Commanders Orders, and he was ſoon obliged to fly, leaving ſome of the Hornets behind, who were ſent to Gaol, but were afterwards releaſed.

Mr. John Aſhton, in his recently published work on “Social Life in England at the end of the Eighteenth Century,” informs us that one evening in the year 1790, 2,100 men were preſſed in London alone, beſides many more at the ſeaport towns.

In the ſummer of 1762 there was a ſevere drought in Maſſachuſetts, and the Governor iſſued a proclamation recommending public prayers for rain ; but it will be noticed that he ſays if rain ſhould come before the day ſet apart for prayers, then, inſtead of humiliation, it would be the duty of the people to make it a day of thanksgiving. The proclamation

referred to was published in the "Boston Post-Boy" of July 13, 1762.



By HIS EXCELLENCY

FRANCIS BERNARD, Esq;

Captain-General and Governor in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*, and Vice-Admiral of the fame.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

For a Day of Public Prayer.

IT having pleased Almighty God to visit this Province with another severe Drought, which, if it should continue much longer, cannot fail of bringing great Distress upon the Inhabitants thereof— We are again called upon to supplicate the Interposition of Divine Providence to relieve this Country from the imminent Danger with which it is threatned, by dispensing timely and plentiful Rain.

I HAVE therefore thought fit to appoint, and I do, by and with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, appoint Wednesday the Twenty-eighth Day of this

Instant *July* to be a Day of Public Prayer throughout the Province: Whereon the whole People may as at one Time humble themselves before Almighty God, acknowledging their great Unworthiness, and confessing their manifold Sins, and imploring the Supreme Dispenser of all Good, that He would be graciously pleased not to withhold from them the Fruits of the Earth, but by seasonable and refreshing Rains bring what yet remains undestroyed to a due and seasonable Maturity.

AND WHEREAS some Places have been exempted from the general Want of Rain; and it is to be hoped that before the Day appointed as aforesaid, many others, and possibly the whole Province, may have a gracious and timely Relief: It will be our Duty to intermix Thanksgiving with Humiliation, in such a Manner as the State of the Province, and particular Parts thereof, shall at that Time require.

And I do order the said Day to be observed as a Day set apart for Religious Worship, and that no servile Labour or Recreation be permitted thereon.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber in Boston, the Ninth Day of July, 1762, in the Second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Fra. Bernard.

By His Excellency's Command,

A. OLIVER, Secr'y.

GOD Save the KING.

Fire-works to be "play'd off," Aug. 13, 1759. From the "Boston Gazette."

The Publick REJOICINGS in Town this Day, on Account of the Success of His Majesty's Arms in the Reduction of Ticonderoga, Niagara and Crown-Point, by the Troops under the Command of the victorious General AMHERST, are now beginning — A great Number of People have been employ'd in making Fire-Works, &c. which will be play'd off this Evening, when there will be a handsome illumination.

The "Post-Boy" of November 15 of that year prints the following: —

NEW-YORK, November 15.

The Ships Manchester and Edward, that arrived here lately from London, brought over no less than 206 Chests of Green and Bohea Teas, for the different Merchants of this City.

Since our last two Vessels arrived here from Ireland, with about 2000 Firkins of choice Irish Butter, which we hope will bring down the Price of that Article.

We get an idea of men's clothing in 1767 from the following: —

~~~~~  
*WHEREAS in the Time of  
 Divine Service Yesterday, the House of the Sub-  
 scriber was broke open, and the following Things stolen  
 from thence, viz. a Chocolate-colour Coat and Jacket  
 trim'd with Brafs Buttons, a cloth-colour'd cut-  
 velvet Jacket with white Buttons, a pair Wash-  
 Leather Breeches with white Buttons, five Silver  
 Tea-Spoons, and one large ditto, mark'd G. P. Who-  
 ever shall apprehend the Thief or Thieves, so that he or  
 they may be convicted, shall have FOUR DOLLARS  
 Reward, paid by*

JOHN PRESCOTT.

Concord, September 14, 1767.

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Lectures were not common in the last century. It was not until within fifty or sixty years ago, when Lyceums began to be established, that the lecture system became developed.

We find that in 1769 a Mr. Douglass lectured in Boston, according to an advertisement in the "Chronicle," August 17th.

The well-known Colonel David Mason of the Revolution, who was a prominent figure among the patriots at Leslie's Retreat at the

North Bridge in Salem in February, 1775, was one of the earliest, if not the very first, to lecture in Salem upon a scientific subject. In the "Essex Gazette," Jan. 15, 1771, we find his advertisement: —

*No longer than next Week, will
Continue to be exhibited, every Evening
in which the Air is dry, (Saturday and Sunday
excepted)*

A Course of Experiments in that instructive and entertaining Branch of Natural PHILOSOPHY, called

Electricity,

To be accompanied with Methodical Lectures
on the Nature and Properties of that WONDER-
FUL ELEMENT,

By David Mafon,

At his Dwelling-House near the North Bridge.
The Course to consist of two Lectures,
At a Pistareen each Lecture.

As the Knowledge of Nature tends to enlarge the human Mind, and give us more noble, more grand and exalted Ideas of the AUTHOR of Nature, and if well pursued, seldom fails producing something *useful*

to Man, 'tis hoped these Lectures may be thought
worthy of Regard and Encouragement.

Tickets to be had at the above Place.

Positively the LAST NIGHT.
To-Morrow, being Friday,
August 17, 1769.

Mr. Douglass,

Will deliver the

L E C T U R E

O N

H E A D S,

*Coats of Arms, Wigs, Ladies-head
Dresses, &c, &c, &c, &c.*

After which, will be pronounced

SOME SELECT PIECES

From

THE MOST CELEBRATED

ENGLISH POETS.


* * Tickets for Admission, to be had of *Green and
Ruffell*, and at the *Bunch of Grapes* in King-Street.

At HALF-a-DOLLAR each.

To begin exactly at 8 o'clock.

Thus we see that Salem was early in the field of literature and science. Its citizens must take pride in remembering such great names as Nathaniel Bowditch, William H. Prescott, Joseph Story, Timothy Pickering, John Pickering, Benjamin Peirce, William W. Story, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and many others.

When we see the great waste of paper in these days, — handbills, circulars, and newspapers, which are blowing about the streets at times, — we sometimes wonder how it was in 1767, on October 19, when the following notice appeared in the “Boston Gazette.”

 *THIS is to give Notice, That*
on TUESDAY the 27th Instant, the Bell-
Cart will go thro' Boston, to collect Linnen Rags for
Milton Paper-Mill; as the highest Price will be given,
all House-keepers and others are desired to have them in
Readiness.—And, as it appears that all Sorts of Paper
now to be imported, will come at a much higher Price
than usual—if People will but save their Rags, it will
not only be greatly interesting to the Public that the afore-
said Mill should have a full Supply, but will also

encourage the manufacturing of all such different Sorts of Paper as are generally used among us, and a little to spare the neighbouring Governments.



Here are two notices, — the first, nearly eight years before the battle of Lexington, sounds warlike; the second is a call to promote greater economy on the part of the inhabitants.

Messieurs EDES & GILL,

Please to insert the following in your next.

IT is rumoured, and some say with great Probability, that a Body of Troops are ordered to be in Readiness at Halifax, to embark to any Part on the Continent of America, upon the first Notice of Uneasiness at the Novelties we daily expect. — It is as certain that America is also in Readiness to defend their Liberties at the Risque of every Thing else—there can be no Hesitation whenever the Alternative shall be Slavery or Death—If therefore they wait to know whether we will tamely submit to Slavery, the sooner the Matter is bro't to a Crisis the better.—But while we have any Opinion of the Integrity and good Sense of the Parliament of G. B. such Reports will not easily gain Credit. DETERMINATUS.

THE Freeholders and other Inhabitants of this Town, are to meet at Faneuil-Hall, on Wednesday next, to consider and agree upon some effectual Measures to promote Industry, Oeconomy, and Manufactures, thereby to prevent the unnecessary Importation of European Commodities, which threaten the Country with Poverty and Ruin, &c.—

Timothy Pickering, the father of the distinguished Revolutionary officer and statesman of the same name, addressed an open letter to King George III., which is printed in the "Salem Gazette," Oct. 31, 1769. It is a very quaint production, but it shows the writer's love of simplicity and downright honesty. He was a sturdy Puritan.

"Oct. 31, 1769.

"TO THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

"GREAT SIR, — Your Kingdom is like a House divided against itself. Something Extraordinary must be done. Our Parliaments for fifty years past (or some of them) have ruined the Nation, in making a monstrous Debt by hiring Money, while greater Sums have been expended in Pride and Luxury. Thirteen hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling, the Public Prints tell us, is paid annually to the Dutch as Interest money. My Advice is that all Rulers and Officers,

who have high Salaries, drop them, except so much as is necessary for plain Living ;—(Samuel had more Honour in his plain Living with his upright Mind, than Saul had in all his Princely Grandeur,)—And that all unnecessary Pensions cease together with military Officers half-pay, (How Unequal are our Ways : These Officers must have large Half-Pay, while the common Soldiers are not allowed small Half-Pay—who have been exposed generally to greater Hardships than their Officers. Either let all have Half-Pay or none. The Soldiers are to be respected as well as their Officers and are as necessary,) and that high Taxes *very high* be laid on all Pride and Luxury, wherever it is found, the Clergy and the Women not excepted ; And that great Taxes be laid on the Rich. I have an Income of but about eighty Pounds Sterling a Year, including my own Hands Labour, nevertheless I am freely willing to pay one quarter Part of it in Taxes till my Public Debts are paid. Others that have Two hundred a Year, can with Ease pay one half of it in Taxes, if need be. *Pay thy Debts ; Owe no man anything is Law, Divine and Moral.* Immoral Men are in the road that leads to Hell ; if they attend Public Worship, they are Hypocrites, like the Scribes and Pharisees, of whom *Christ* said, Ye are of your Father the Devil. If I understand the Apostle, when such Men sit or kneel at a Communion Table, it is a Table of Devils to them. Pray, Sir, tell your Placemen that the vast Multitude of your Subjects are very uneasy that so

much of the Public Money, when raised is sunk in the Gulph of Exorbitancy. My Governor, Mr. Francis Bernard, demands a thousand Pounds Sterling a Year; one half that Sum is more than Enough, especially as the Nation is ready to sink with the Weight of its Public Debt. The *Clergy* can tell their Congregations that the New Testament rather reproves than commands the wearing of costly Array and faring sumptuously every Day; And I may venture to tell my Readers that all those who neglect taking a conscientious care to pay their Debts, private Debts, as well as public, are in the high Way to Destruction; the commonness of the Sin don't abate the Malignity of it.

P. S. Your Majesty sees how diligent Governor Nehemiah was in reforming what was amiss in Israel. He was obliged indeed to contend with the Nobles and the Rulers who opposed him, but he subdued them, and no wonder! Because he feared God and not Man.

From a loyal Subject of my King and a sincere Friend to his Kingdom.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Mr. Pickering wrote a letter to his son, while the latter was a student at Harvard College, requesting him not to play at cards, a practice which he regarded as wicked. But the son (Colonel Timothy Pickering afterwards), as Mr. Upham, his biographer, well remarks, was

altogether too busy with his studies to waste time over cards.

We do not observe in the old papers much that would indicate a belief in modern Spiritu-
alism ; but it would seem from some accounts
that “angels” were occasionally seen. In the
cases we quote, the kind of “angels” is not
stated. Whether they were real live beauties,
or not, can only be conjectured. Who would
not now like to buy one of these books at “four
Coppers,” so as to read all about these angels ?




THIS DAY PRINTED.

(And Sold by *Green & Ruffel*, in Queen-Street,)

A True & wonderful Relation
of the Appearance of THREE ANGELS,
(cloathed in White Raiment) to a young Man at *Med-*
ford, near *Boston*, in *New-England*, on the 4th of *February*
1761, at Night. Together with the Substance of the
DISCOURSE, delivered by one of the Angels, from
the 3d Chapter of *Colossians*, and 4th Verse.

[Price only four Coppers.]

 Good Allowance to those that purchase by the
Dozen.

Boston Gazette, Feb. 18, 1761.

About this time, also, “angels” made their appearance “at home” (England), as will be seen by another notice from the same paper.

This Day Published,
(*And Sold by Fowle & Draper, in Marlboro'-Street.*)
A full Relation of the surprizing
Appearance of an Angel, in the Parish-Church of
Gainsbury in Lincolnshire, on Chriftnas-Day laft, in
the Morning.—From whom was obtained a Prophecy
of many Things that fhould come to pafs in Europe;
but more efpecially in England and France:—The
firft of which Kingdoms is threatened with feveral
Judgments on Account of their great Mifimprove-
ment of peculiar Priviledges: Whilft the latter, not-
withftanding their Endeavours to become great, fhall
be totally deftroy'd by Difcord among themfelves, &c.
&c. The whole being a loud Call to Repentance.—
Published at the Request of the Parifhioners, and
attested to by two Minifters, and three Efquires.

1761.

— ◆ —
In the “Boston Post-Boy” for Dec. 12,
1763, is an account of the dedication of the
Synagogue in Newport, R. I.

NEWPORT, December 5.

On Friday last, in the Afternoon, was the Dedication of the new Synagogue, in this Town. It began by a handsome Procession, in which were carried the Books of the Law, to be deposited in the Ark. Several Portions of Scripture, and of their Service, with a Prayer for the Royal Family, were read, and finely sung by the Priest and People. There were present many Gentlemen and Ladies. The Order and Decorum, the Harmony and Solemnity of the Musick, together with a handsome Assembly of People, in an Edifice the most perfect of the Temple Kind perhaps in America, and splendidly illuminated, could not but raise in the Mind a faint Idea of the Majesty and Grandeur of the antient Jewish Worship mentioned in Scripture.

We find by the "Salem Mercury" of March 30, 1789, that New Hackensack was fifty or sixty years before Rochester in "rappings" and "table-tippings." Who shall say that these manifestations, whatever they are, are not as old as man himself? The best and wisest of us do not know everything. There may be some science, yet in its infancy, which will some day be explained, so that all these things will then be perfectly understood. The

account here given has no appearance of deception. Had the girl lived a hundred years earlier, she would in all probability have been hanged for a witch ; but had she lived in these days, she might have reaped a harvest from lectures and séances.

PHILADELPHIA, March 10.

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Fishkill, dated
March 3, 1789.*

“Were I to relate the many extraordinary accounts of the unfortunate girl at New-Hackensack, your belief might, perhaps, be staggered. I shall therefore only inform you of what I was an eyewitness to. Last Sunday afternoon myself and wife went to Dr. Thorn’s, and after sitting sometime, we heard a knocking under the feet of a young woman that lives in the family ; I asked the Doctor what occasioned the noise—he could not tell, but replied, that he, together with several others had examined the house, but were unable to discover the cause. I then took a candle, and went with the girl into the cellar—there the knocking also continued ; but as we were ascending the stairs to return, I heard a prodigious rapping on each side, which alarmed me very much. I stood still some time looking around with amazement, when I beheld some lumber, which lay at the head of the stairs, shake considerably. About eight or ten days

after, we visited the girl again—the knocking still continued, though much louder. Our curiosity induced us to pay the third visit, when the phenomena were still more alarming. I then saw the chairs move; a large dining table was thrown against me, and a small stand on which stood a candle, was tossed up, and thrown in my wife's lap; after which we left the house, much surprised at what we had seen."

Advertisements for runaway slaves are very numerous, as well as offers for the sale of single slaves. In some instances negro children are "to be given away." The following notices are taken from the "Boston Gazette" and the "Boston Post-Boy." The descriptions of dress, personal appearance, etc., are very curious.

RAN away from *Thomas Poynton of Salem*, a Negro Fellow, about 25 Years of Age, a short thick-set Fellow, not very black, something pitted with the Small-Pox, speaks bad English: Had on when he went away, a dark colour'd Cloth Coat, lined with red Shalloon, with Mettal Buttons, a blue Sailor's Jacket, and a flowered German Serge Jacket, black knit Breeches, a Pair grey Stockings newly stock'd, an old Beaver Hatt, and an old Drab Great

Coat: Any Person that fhall take up faid Negro, and convey him to *Salem*, or fecure him in any Gaol fhall be well rewarded, and all neceffary Charges paid.

N. B. All Mafters of Veffels and others are cautioned againft harbouring, concealing or carrying off the faid Negro, as they would avoid the Rigour of the Law.


THOMAS POYNTON.

Gazette, Feb. 4, 1766.

To be given away,
A Male Negro Child of a good
Breed, and in good Health. Inquire of Green and
Ruffell.

Post-Boy, Feb. 28, 1763.

TO BE SOLD.
A young Negro Woman about
20 Years of Age, born in this Country, poffefs'd of
many good Qualifications, is a very good COOK,
can handle her Needle well, and do every Kind of
Buſinefs about Houſe, and fold only for want of Em-
ploy. Enquire of Green & Ruffell.

 She will not be fold out of this Town.

Post-Boy, Feb. 28, 1763.

RAN away from his Master,

John Amiel of *Boston*, last Thursday Night, a Negro Fellow named *Peer*, he had on when he went away a cloth colour'd Coat, lin'd and trim'd with red, a black broad cloth Waistcoat without sleeves, a yellow pair of leather Breeches, a large pair of silver Buckels, and a good Beaver Hat; he is a thick set Fellow, has very large Feet and Legs, and speaks good *French* and *English*. Whoever will apprehend the said Negro and bring him to his Master in *Boston*, shall have TWO DOLLARS Reward, and all necessary Charges paid by *John Amiel*.

All Masters of Vessels and others, are hereby forbid to harbour, conceal or carry off said Negro Servant, as they would avoid the penalty of the Law.

Boston, May 2.

Post-Boy, May 10, 1763.

T O B E S O L D

A Negro Woman, about Twenty Eight Years of Age; she is remarkably healthy, and strong, and several other good Qualities; and is offer'd to Sale, for no other reason, than her being of a furious Temper, and somewhat lazy; smart Discipline, would make her a very good Servant. Any Person minded to Purchase, may be further inform'd by enquiring of the Printers.

Gazette, May 12, 1760.

Newport, Rhode-Island, August 28, 1767.

Ran-away from *Benjamin Brenton*,
a short thick Negro Man named LONDON, has
lost his Toes off both Feet. Whoever brings said
Negro to his Master, shall have EIGHT DOLLARS
Reward, and all Charges paid.

Boston Gazette.

Boston, for aught we know, did as much in
the slave-trade as Newport; possibly more.
The numerous advertisements of "Prime Men
and Boys" and "Parcels of likely Negroes"
which appear about this time in the Boston
papers rather indicate a considerable trade in
slaves.

JUST IMPORTED AND TO BE SOLD BY

John Rowe,

AT HIS STORE,

A few likely Negro Boys, and
two Negro Men between 20 and 30 Years of Age.
Also, Newcastle Coals, Lisbon and Salterduda Salt,
A few Pipes of MADEIRA WINES, also Fyal Wines,
Quart Bottles by the Groce — Hemp — Russia and
Ravens Duck — English Duck of all Numbers — Cord-

age Anchors—Oznabrigs—Ticklenburgs—Hooks and Lines—Newcastle Crown Glafs of all Sizes and in Sheets—ALSO, Bristol Glafs of all Sizes—All Sorts of Nails—Scotch Snuff, and a variety of English and Scots Manufactures.

Boston Post-Boy, Dec. 19, 1763.

Just Imported from *Africa*,

And to be Sold cheap at No. 5 *Butler's* Row.

A few prime Men and Boys Slaves
from the Gold Coast.

TO BE SOLD,

A Parcel of likely Negroes, imported from *Africa*, Cheap for Cash or Credit with Interest; enquire of *John Avery* at his House, next Door to the white Horse, or at a Store adjoining to said *Avery's* Distill House, at the South End, near the South Market:—Also if any Persons have any Negroe Men, strong and hearty, tho' not of the best moral Character, which are proper Subjects for Transportation, may have an Exchange for small Negroes.

Boston Gazette, 1762.

JUST Imported,
From *A F R I C A*.

A Number of prime young
S L A V E S, from the Windward Coast, and
to be Sold on board Capt. *Gwin* lying at New-Boston.

Boston Gazette, July 13, 1761.

TO be fold, a parcel of likely
hearty Negroes, both Male and Female from
Ten Years of Age to Twenty, imported the last
Week from *AFRICA*. Enquire of Capt. *Wickham* on
board the Sloop *Diamond*, now laying at the Wharff
adjoining to *JOHN AVERY*'s Distill-House near the
South Market, or of said *Avery* at his House next the
White Horse.

We have not been able to find that any of
the inhabitants of Salem engaged in the slave-
trade; but we notice that at a town-meeting
held in the month of May, 1773, the following
vote was passed: "That the Representatives
of the Town be instructed to use their utmost
Endeavours to prevent the future Importation

of Negroes into this Province; their Slavery being repugnant to the natural Rights of Mankind and highly prejudicial to the Province." It is of course possible that some Salem people may have been interested in vessels hailing from other places and engaged in this nefarious traffic, as it is now considered.

Arrival of Irish servants at Boston in 1769.

Arrived from IRELAND,

THE Ship King of Prussia, AR-

THUR DARLEY, master, has on board 30 Servants, some Tradefmen, viz. Taylors, Shoe-makers, Smiths, Weavers, &c. the remainder Country lads that understand Farming bufiness.—His stay here will be short, as he is bound to another Port.

Boston Chronicle, September 25.

The celebrated revival preacher Rev. George Whitefield was in Boston in 1764. We take the following item from the "Boston Post-Boy" of February 24:—

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston on Friday last, it was voted unanimously, That the Thanks of the Town be given the Rev. Mr. GEORGE WHITEFIELD, for his charitable Care and Pains in collecting a considerable Sum of Money in Great-Britain, for the distressed Sufferers by the great Fire in Boston, 1760; and a respectable Committee was appointed to wait on Mr. WHITEFIELD to inform him of the Vote, and present him with a Copy thereof, which Committee waited upon him accordingly, and received the following Answer,

Gentlemen,

T*HIS Vote of Thanks for so small an Instance of my good-will to Boston, as it was entirely unexpected, quite surprizes me—Often have I been much concerned that I could do no more upon such a distressing Occasion.—That the Redeemer may ever preserve the Town from such like melancholy Events, and sanctify their present afflictive Circumstances to the spiritual Welfare of all its Inhabitants, is the hearty Prayer of,*

Gentlemen,

Your ready Servant in our common LORD.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

The Rev. Mr. WHITEFIELD preached on Tuesday and Saturday last, at the Old South Meeting-House, to large and crowded Auditories.

Marriage of Copley, the celebrated painter, from the "Chronicle," Nov. 20, 1769.

Last Thursday Mr. *John Singleton Copley* was married to Miss *Sukey Clarke* Daughter of *Richard Clarke*, Esq; and Mr. *Joshua Henshaw*, jun. to Miss *Katherine Hill*, Daughter of Col. *John Hill*.

Thomas Britt

WOULD take a few young Ladies, &c. to teach them Spelling, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, at his School near the Cornfield. ALSO, French taught and translated by said *Britt*.

Boston Gazette, April 27, 1767.

Where were or where was, as the case might be, the "Cornfields" or "Cornfield" of Boston in 1763? Martin Gay kept a store or lived near there, and in 1767 Master Britt kept a school for young ladies near the "Cornfield."

Choice English Peas


at the North-Mills, TO BE SOLD, by the larger or smaller Quantity, at a low Rate, Enquire of *William Paine* at said Mills, or of *Martin Gay*, near the Cornfields, *Boston*.

Dec. 12, 1763.

When we remember the old pictures and portraits of stately ladies with high head-dresses and gentlemen with wigs, the following advertisements are interesting :—

Joshua Davis, *Peruke-Maker*.

HEREBY informs his Customers, and others, That he has Remov'd his Shop from the Head of the Long Wharf, next the Crown Coffee House, to the first Shop in Mackrell Lane, next the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, where they may be serv'd with Fidelity and Dispatch.

 Said *Davis* makes the neatest and most fashionable Wiggs, at a moderate Rate.

Boston Gazette, Feb. 18, 1761.

A genteel Gold Watch, made by *Marmaduke Storr*, to be Sold, inquire of the Printers.

Sept. 14, 1761.

A few Genteel Grey and light Grey London-made WIGS, to be sold by JOHN CROSBY, Periwig Maker near the Sign of the Lamb, also Wig-makers Ribbons, Silk and Cauls, Bodyed Grizle, and Grizle Hairs for cut Wigs, Bleach'd, Tye and Brown Spencer Hairs, white Goat

Hairs, white, black, and brown Horfe Hairs, Moy Crown Hairs, Cards and Brushhes, drawing Cards and Brushhes, best Razors, purple Thread, Tupee Irons, & Curling Tongs, Tupee Combs in Cafes, Wig Blocks, Silk Puffs, Hair, Powder, Shaving Boxes, & Brushhes, wash Ball Boxes, and wash Balls, London black Balls with Printed directions, to use them very Nice, black Sattin Baggs for the Hair, white, black, yellow; & Bear Grees, Pomatum Excellent with their use to make Hair of a good Colour, & to grow thicker, Gold & Silver Powders (so called) to clean Gold and Silver Lace & Embroaderry.

Boston Post-Boy, Dec. 12, 1763.

At fires, leather buckets were used by the inhabitants, and were sometimes lost or misplaced, as appears from the following advertisements from the "Boston Gazette":—

LOST at the late Fire on the 5th of November Inst. a Leather Bucket, No. 2, mark'd *Wm. Hickling*: Whoever is taken up the same, are desir'd to return it to the Owner, or the Printers hereof.

LOST at the Fire near *Oliver's-Dock*, on the 14th Day of November last, a Pair of Leather Fire Buckets, mark'd *Benja^a. Barnard*, and dated 1757.

Whoever will give Information, or bring them to the Printers hereof, shall be handsomely Rewarded.

Dec. 10, 1759.

Within the writer's recollection, in nearly every house in Salem two or more fire-buckets, marked with the owner's name, were, when not in use, kept hanging in the front hall. At fires, lanes, as they were called, of men were formed, under the direction generally of the fire-wards, and water was passed from one to another and to the fire from some neighboring pump or cistern.

We see notices like the following of insurance offices; but they were principally for marine risks, as not many fire risks were taken before the beginning of the present century.

Hurd's Insurance-Office,

At the BUNCH OF GRAPES, STATE-STREET,
BOSTON,

OPEN at all hours of business, where Policies of Insurance are underwritten upon the most moderate premiums; and the Gentlemen forming this Insurance Company, whose names are inserted in each Policy, having established adequate Funds for

the ready payment of such losses as may happen, hereby notify, that business will be done with all possible attention, dispatch and punctuality, by

JOHN HURD,
(Insurance Broker.)

April 8, 1784.

THIS is to inform all Gentlemen in Trade,
That

THE INSURANCE OFFICE

Lately kept in Ann-Street near the Town-Dock, by SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE, is removed to the House of the Honorable WILLIAM BRATTLE, Esq; next Door to the British Coffee-House, King-Street: Where the Business of Insurance is carried on as usual.

Boston, December 6, 1759.

With regard to policies, the term "underwriter" came from an old custom. There were in old times no joint-stock companies for insurance, but policies were filled out and left at an office kept by some person for the purpose, where any responsible man could sign his name to a particular policy and affix such sum as he was willing to risk, and thus become one of the "underwriters." We

have seen, for instance, a policy for \$20,000 with twelve or fifteen names of merchants, signed with various sums from \$500 upwards.

A quaint notice of the death of Obadiah Brown, of Providence, from the "Boston Post-Boy":—

PROVIDENCE, June 21, 1762.

ON Thursday last died at his Seat in the Country, after two Days Illness, OBADIAH BROWN, Esq; in the 50th Year of his Age. He was one of the most considerable Men in this Town: In the various Branches of Business which he carried on, his Activity was unequalled, his Judgment and Prudence oftener admired than imitated, his Honesty and Integrity fit to be drawn into Example.—As a Magistrate, he was judicious, grave, and reserved:—As a Friend, constant, open, facetious, and cheerful:—In the Relations of a Husband, Father, and Master, the deep and real Sorrow of his Widow, the mournful Tears of his Children, and the unusual Cries and Lamentations of his Servants, are invincible Proofs in his Favour. His Beneficence is witnessed by the Sighs of the Poor and Thanks of the Tradesmen: And his Death is universally lamented, because his Life was universally useful.

Notice of Hon. Daniel Russell, from the
“ Boston Gazette ” : —

Charlestown, December 10, 1763.

ON Tuesday last departed this Life, after a short Illness, the Hon. DANIEL RUSSELL, Esq; who, for upwards of Twenty Years, was a Member of his Majesty's Council for this Province : He also served the Province as Commissioner of Impost, and the County of Middlesex as Treasurer, for more than fifty Years ; in the Discharge of all which Offices, such was his conscientious Fidelity and unfulled Integrity, as procured him universal Approbation and Esteem.

In public and private Life, his whole Conduct was such as evidently shewed his invariable desire and endeavour to preserve a Conscience void of Offence both towards God and Man ; and by the Rectitude of his Behaviour, to adorn and recommend the holy Religion which he professed, and to approve himself to the all-searching Eye of the Father of Spirits.

His Memory is greatly honoured by all who were acquainted with him, in whose esteem he was truly that “ noblest Work of God, *An honest Man.*”

It is observable that in the several Offices which he sustained, he succeeded his worthy Father and Grandfather ; both of whom held and discharged the same, for a great Number of Years, with unspotted Reputation.

His Remains, we hear, will be inter'd on Monday next, on which Day, had he lived, he would have entered the 79th Year of his Age.

“ The sweet Remembrance of the juſt
“ Shall flouriſh when he ſleeps in duſt.”

Account of the burial of Major-General Whitmore, from the “ Boston Gazette ” :—

B O S T O N, December 21, 1761.

Wednesday afternoon the Corps of Major General WHITMORE was interred in the King's Chapple with all the Honours that this Town could give. The Proceſſion went from the Town-Houſe to the King's Chapple in the following Manner ; A Party of the Troop of Horſe Guards, the Company of Cadets, the Officers of the Regiment of Militia, the officiating Miniſters, the Corps, the Pall ſupported by ſix regular Officers, the chief Mourners, the Governor and Lieut. Governor, the Council, the Judges, Juſtices, Miniſters, and principal Gentlemen of the Town, a great Number of Coaches and Chariots following. During the whole Proceſſion Minute-Guns were fired. The Corps was placed in the Middle of the King's Chapple whiſt Part of the Funeral Service was performed, and was from thence carried into the Vaults below, and there interred. Whiſt the laſt Service was performing the Cadets fired three Vollies.

Notice of Hon. John Erving, from the
“Massachusetts Gazette,” Aug. 22, 1786:—

Died, last Sunday morning, in the 94th year of his age, the Hon. JOHN ERVING, Esq. who, for twenty years, was a member of the Council under the old constitution, and one of the most eminent merchants in America.

As a man of probity, and strict honesty, he was universally esteemed. Those who were acquainted with his character must regret the loss of so worthy a member of the community. In his domestic life he was a tender parent and kind master.—His funeral will be this afternoon, precisely at five o'clock, from his house in Tremont-street, where his friends and acquaintance are desired to attend.

Notice of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Salisbury, from the “Massachusetts Centinel,” March 28, 1789:—

Last Wednesday night departed this life, very suddenly, Mrs. ELIZABETH SALISBURY, the amiable and virtuous Consort of Mr. Samuel Salisbury of this town, merchant. Her funeral will be from his house in Marlborough-street, this afternoon—which her friends are desired to attend.

From the "Boston Chronicle," March 8,
1770: —

B O S T O N .

For some days bye-past, there have been several affrays between the inhabitants and the soldiers quartered in this town.

Last Monday about 9 o'clock at night a most unfortunate affair happened in King-street: The centinel posted at the Custom-house, being surrounded by a number of people, called to the main-guard, upon which Capt. Preston, who was Captain of the day, with a party, went to his assistance: soon after which some of the party fired, by which the following persons were killed and wounded,

Mr. Samuel Gray, ropemaker, killed. — A Mollatto man, named Johnson, killed. — Mr. James Caldwell, mate of Capt. Morton's vessel, killed. — Mr. Samuel Maverick, wounded, and since dead. — A Lad named Christopher Monk, wounded. — A lad named John Clark, wounded. — Mr. Edward Payne, Merchant, standing at his entry-door, wounded in the arm. — Mr. John Greene, taylor, wounded. — Mr. Patrick Cole, wounded. — David Parker, wounded.

Early next morning Captain Preston was committed to gaol, and same day 8 soldiers.

A meeting of the inhabitants was called at Faneuil-hall that forenoon: and the Lieutenant-Governor and Council met at the Council-chamber, where the Colonels Dalrymple and Carr were desired to attend,

when it was concluded upon, that both regiments should go down to the barracks at Castle-William, as soon as they were ready to receive them.

We decline at present, giving a more particular account of this unhappy affair, as we hear the trial of the unfortunate prisoners is to come on next week.

This is all the "Boston Chronicle" has to say about that great historical event of the fifth of March, an event which stirred the whole country and filled the minds of the Colonists with a perfect hatred of the British power in America,— "The Boston Massacre." The editor of the paper was probably a Tory.

The "Massachusetts Gazette," Feb. 3, 1774, says:—

We hear that the Hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Esq; is appointed to deliver the ORATION in Commemoration of the Bloody Tragedy on the 5th of March 1770.

The "Salem Gazette" has this item, March 7, 1782:—

Last Tuesday Mr. George R. Minot delivered an elegant and spirited Oration, at the old brick meeting-house, in commemoration of the horrid massacre perpetrated on the 5th of March, 1770, by a banditti of the British tyrant's 29th regiment.

It may not be of any consequence to the public to know what kind of coat Jonathan Williams wore in 1767, but it may be a matter of curiosity to his descendants now living. We take the following advertisement from the "Boston Gazette," Dec. 28, 1767:—

Whereas there has been taken out of the House of *Jonathan Williams* in Cornhill, two Great Coats, on the 23d Instant, one of his own Wearing a cloth-coloured Drab; the other his Servants, a blue Cloth ditto. Whoever has taken them, and will return the former to said *Williams*, shall have the latter *gratis*, and no Questions ask'd.

Notice.

Frequent applications being made to the Town-Cryer, to proceed through the streets in search of Children that have strayed from their home, which

practice often excites unnecessary alarm to the inhabitants.

The public are respectfully desired, in case of any discovery of a child, or children so lost or strayed, to bring them immediately to the subscriber at No. 71, Newbury street.—By an attention to this regulation, Parents and friends may have their anxiety relieved by applying as above.

SAMUEL ADAMS, *Town-Crier.*

Constitutional Telegraph, Aug. 8, 1800.

Masonic notice from Paul Revere and others,
from the “Boston Post-Boy.”

NOTICE is hereby given to the Brethren of the Antient and Honorable Society of FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, That the Feast of St. JOHN the BAPTIST will be Celebrated by the Brethren of St. ANDREW's Lodge, (duly authoriz'd, constituted and appointed to be held at *Boston*, by the Right Honorable, JOHN LORD ABERDOUR, Grand Master of *Scotland*) on Thursday the 24th Instant, at the Royal-Exchange Tavern in King-Street, Tickets to be had of

Boston, June 14, 1762.

JOSEPH WEBB, jun.

PHILLIP LEWIS,

PAUL REVERE.

The house of Copley, the celebrated painter, is thus advertised :—

To be LET, and entered on immediately,

THAT elegant, convenient, and most pleasantly situated DWELLING-HOUSE, with a large Garden, and other Land about it, (near his Excellency the Governour's) belonging to Mr. COPLEY; well known to be completely accommodated for a genteel family. Inquire of CHARLES PELHAM, (at the late Dwelling-House of Mrs. PELHAM, at New-Boston) he being impowered to let it.

May 16, 1789.

Massachusetts Centinel.

Antique luxuries.

WANTED, the following, viz. Fifteen Pair of WOOD DUCKS, Four Pair of WILD GEESE, Three Pair of FLYING SQUIRRELS, Three Dozen of the smallest Size Terrapins or fresh Water TURTLES, for which a good PRICE will be given, or for any Part of them.—Enquire of the Printer.

Essex Gazette, Feb. 21, 1771.

We do not see much in the papers about spinning-wheels until after the War of the

Revolution; then there seemed to be what may be called a revival of domestic industry. In 1786 the ladies of Hartford, Conn., formed an Economical Association. They say that they are "fully sensible that our calamities are in a great measure occasioned by the luxury and extravagance of individuals, and are of opinion that it is a duty they owe their country as well as their families to retrench as far as possible all unnecessary expenses." Their articles of agreement were signed, on the 6th of November, 1786, by more than a hundred ladies belonging to the first families in the city. By these articles they engage "not to purchase for next six months any Gauze, Ribbons, Lace, Feathers, Beaver-Hats, Silks, Muslins, and Chintzes, except only for weddings and mourning;" also to "dress their persons in the plainest manner and encourage industry, frugality, and neatness, giving all due preference to the manufactures of their own country." To this they add that "when they receive visits and make entertainments, it will be their study to avoid unnecessary expense, especially in foreign articles." On June 17 of that year the President of Harvard College addressed a

letter to the "Massachusetts Gazette" which is interesting in this connection. This letter we copy to show how economy entered into everything, even a "liberal education." It will moreover be of interest because of the attempt made to regulate the students' dress.

UNIVERSITY in CAMBRIDGE,
JUNE 17, 1786.

To the Publisher of the Massachusetts GAZETTE.

EVERY proper attempt of the Governours of the Univerfity to leffen the expenfe of a liberal education muft be grateful to the Publick, and meet with their hearty concurrence ; the Members of the Community, therefore, in general, and the Parents and Guardians of the Students in particular, it is not doubted, will be well pleafed with fome late regulations, made by the Corporation and Overfeers, to introduce economy in drefs, and will readily perform their part, in carrying them into effect.

By ordering an uniform, the Governours of the Society have removed the temptation to that frequent change of apparel, which may have arifen from the liberty the Students have had, of chufing different colours, from time to time: And by entirely prohibiting filk (an unneceffary article in their clothing) a very confiderable expenfe is prevented.

That the drefs of the Students be neat and decent is highly proper ; but that it fhould be very ornamen-

tal and expensive is ever needless, and oftentimes pernicious: Nor will any Student, who is solicitous to acquire knowledge, and sincerely disposed to improve his time to the best advantage, in obtaining such degrees of it, as may enable him to be extensively useful to the Community, feel a reluctance to economical institutions respecting dress. He will not only esteem the ornaments of the mind of vastly higher importance than those of the body, but the general good will also constantly influence his conduct; and he will cheerfully encourage every regulation, which tends to promote frugality.

The regulations referred to, I now transmit to you, which the Corporation and Overseers of the University request you to publish, for the information of all concerned.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

JOSEPH WILLARD.

At a Meeting of the CORPORATION, &c.
JUNE 13, 1786.

WHEREAS the enjoining of an uniform colour, in the clothing of the Undergraduates, and prohibiting a certain species of materials, in their apparel, will have a great tendency to lessen the expense of dress (which, at present, constitutes too large a proportion of the Collegiate charges) while, at the same time, the appearance will be more academical:

Voted, That it be recommended, that the Freshmen, who shall be admitted into the University the

present year, before the end of the Summer Vacation, be provided with coats of blue-gray, being a mixture of deep blue and white wool, as nearly as may be, seven eighths of the blue, and one eighth of the white, or, if that cannot conveniently be obtained, of a dark blue colour,—and with waistcoats and breeches of the same colour, or of a straw colour.

That, when they shall procure clothes, afterwards, and while Undergraduates, their coats shall be of the colour first mentioned, and their waistcoats and breeches of the same colour, or of a straw colour.

That the Freshmen, who shall be admitted into the University in the year 1787, and afterwards, shall be provided with coats of the colour first mentioned, and with waistcoats and breeches as last mentioned, and shall continue provided with clothes of these specified colours while they remain Undergraduates.

That all, who shall hereafter be admitted, when they commence Sophimores, shall have the addition of frogs to the button holes of their coats, the cuff of the sleeve to be plain.

That when they commence Junior Sophisters, their coats shall have the further addition of frogs on the button-side,—continuing the plain cuff; and they shall also provide themselves with black gowns, having a close sleeve and slit cuff, to be made according to the direction of the Corporation.

That, when they commence Senior Sophisters, they shall have the further addition of buttons and

frogs to the cuff of their coat, and shall also have black gowns, with a wide sleeve,—the mode to be determined by the Corporation.

That when they are admitted to the Bachelor's degree, they shall appear in like gowns and clothes as are prescribed for the Senior Sophisters.

That the Seniors and Juniors shall wear their black gowns, on all publick occasions, and whenever they shall publickly declaim in the Chapel.

That no Undergraduate, to whom these injunctions may extend, be permitted to appear within the limits of the College, or town of Cambridge, in any other dress than is before described, unless he has on a night gown, or an outside garment be necessary over his coat.

That no part of the dress of the Undergraduates be made of silk;—and that it be recommended to them, to clothe themselves in home manufactures, as far as may be.

That these regulations be extended to all who shall hereafter be admitted into the University;—and that it be recommended to such as are already Members, to conform thereto, upon principles of economy, as far as may consist with their present supply of clothing.

UNIVERSITY in Cambridge, June 12, 1786.

CCANDIDATES for their second degree, at the next Commencement, are notified, that it is expected that they give their attendance at the University by the 12th day of July; and if any

should not attend by that time, they will not receive their degree this year, unless they give sufficient reasons for their absence.

They who desire admission into the University this year, are also notified, that the President and Tutors will attend the business of examination on Friday and Saturday, the 21st and 22d of July.

JOSEPH WILLARD, President.

In 1788 the industry of the people of Providence, R. I., is set forth in the following notice, from the "Salem Mercury" of November 25:

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

A Providence paper informs, that the Carding and Spinning Machines used in England in manufacturing cotton stuffs, are introducing into that town by some publick spirited gentlemen—and that there are few families in that town which are not manufacturing some kind of cloth.

It appears from the "Columbian Centinel," July 14, 1790, that the wealthy of that day had a fondness for foreign articles.

Complaint is very prolifick in all countries. In the United States we complain, that,

*Tho' rich at home, to foreign lands we stray,
And trade for trinkets our best wealth away.*

The following advertisement from the "Massachusetts Centinel" recalls the time when cows were pastured on Boston Common.

STRAYED, on Saturday laſt, from Boſton Common, and belonging to JONATHAN AMORY, a young red COW, with ſome white on the back and belly, forehead white, ſmall horns, with the tips off. Whoever will bring her to the owner will be rewarded.

Boston, May 24, 1788.

People were expected to have long memories in old times, judging from the following notification in the "Boston Gazette" of 1760:—

WHEREAS on the 17th of January 1740-1, twenty-seven yards and an half of yard-wide ſheeting linnen, and ſome ſmaller articles, was ſold at mr. *James Gordon's* ſhop in *Boston*, and deliver'd to

one capt *Stevens*, as appears by said *Gordon's* book; and thro' some mistake in keeping his books, said articles are charg'd to another of the same name. If therefore the said capt. *Stevens*, that really had said goods, or any of his family, or others, can give any light into the matter, it is desired they would acquaint the printers hereof, and they shall be generously recompenced for their trouble.

The "small pox" was very troublesome in Colonial times, as this announcement from the "Boston Gazette," Feb. 2, 1761, shows:—

Samuel Parkman hereby informs his Customers and others, That immediately on the breaking out of the Small-Pox in the back Part of his House in Union Street, he removed his Shop Goods to a Store on a Wharf that they may be safe from any Infection, and himself to the House of Mr. Joshua Winter Stationer—The Person who had the Distemper is perfectly recovered, and departed the House some Days ago, and the House thoroughly cleansed.

The following notice from the "Massachusetts Gazette" reminds us of the time of open fire-places and blazing, cheerful wood-fires:

THE SELECTMEN would inform the Town, that they have *approved* a number of *Chimney-Sweepers*, who are furnished with badges agreeable to the By-Laws, and have stipulated to execute their business *faithfully*, at the following rates, viz.—For lower-room chimnies, *fourteen pence two fifths*, or *one pistareen*; and for all chamber chimnies, *one shilling* each—that all concerned may govern themselves accordingly.

Boston, Sept. 21, 1786.

The spinning-wheel at Ipswich. From the “Columbian Centinel,” June 7, 1791.

For the CENTINEL.

THE Printer is requested to record it among the numerous instances of female benevolence and harmony, which have been exhibited in these times, and so well reprove the jarring dissensions of the *men*—that at Ipswich, lately, at the house of the Rev. Mr. DANA, a numerous band of ladies, in harmonious concert, have again “laid their hands to the spindle, and held the distaff;” and presented the fruit of their generous toil, 118 run of good yarn; viz. 88 linen, 30 cotton; the materials, provisions, and handsome attendance, all furnished by themselves and those who joined with them.—“*Give her of the fruit of her own hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.*”

From the "Salem Mercury," April 28, 1787.

Not long ago a number of ladies belonging to the Presbyterian society in Newbury-Port, assembled at the Parsonage-house, with their spinning-wheels and other utensils of industry, for the day, to the benefit of their minister's family. The assembly having first united in the solemn exercises of social worship, the business of the day was opened. Every apartment in the house was full. The music of the spinning-wheel resounded from every room. Benevolence was seen smiling in every countenance, and the harmony of hearts surpassed even the harmony of wheels. The labours of the day were concluded about 5 o'clock; when the fair labourers presented Mrs. MURRAY with cotton and linen yarn, of the best quality, amounting to 236 skeins. Necessary refreshment being past, publick worship was attended; and a discourse delivered, by the Rev. Mr. MURRAY, to a large assembly, from Exodus 35, 25, *And all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands.*

From the "Salem Mercury," Feb. 6, 1787.

There is a young Miss in New-Haven, who will soon wear a silk gown *of her own make*. Such noble industry ought to be written in letters of gold. May the ladies profit by the example—and may it

foon be esteemed difreputable, by both ladies and gentlemen, to wear any thick filk but of our own manufacture.

An advertisement in the "Boston Gazette," Feb. 19, 1760, rather indicates that "searchers" sometimes exceeded their powers.

ALL Persons who within five Years past, have had any Shoes or Boots, seiz'd and taken from them, in the Town of Boston, by any of the Searches and Sealers of Leather there, for being made of Leather unduly tann'd or curried, or on Pretence thereof; are hereby notified to give or send in to the Printers hereof, an Account in Writing, of the Number of Shoes, &c. so taken from them, the Time when (as near as they can) with the Name of the Person that seiz'd and took them, and the Name of the Justice of Peace to whom Complaint or Information was made concerning such Shoes, &c. by the eighth Day of *March* next, if they desire any Recompence for the Injuries they have suffer'd by such Seizures.

In 1767 snuff was apparently of more importance, as merchandise, to say the least, than were Bibles and Testaments. In an advertisement it was printed in capitals, while the latter were in smaller type.

Caleb Blanchard,

In Union-Street, BOSTON.

*HAS just Imported by Captain Rhodes from London,
and Captain Bain from Glasgow.*

A Great Variety of English, India, and Scotch
GOODS, suitable for all Seasons of the Year,
which He sells at the lowest Rates, by Wholesale or
Retail, for Cash or Treasurer's Notes.

N. B. Kippen's and Tillich's SNUFF, Bibles and
Testaments, all Sorts of Stationary, &c. &c. &c.

Boston, April 19th, 1788.

WHEREAS some person or per-

sons have acted so villainous a part, as to
make use of my name in vending and selling Snuff of
a very bad quality ; not only injuring me in my credit,
but cheating the purchaser, as the Snuff manufactured
by me is of the best kind, and which I always warrant
to be such.

Some of the purchasers of said bad Snuff have
brought the same to me, supposing it to be really
of my manufacture ; but upon examination, found
it to be of a loose and dry kind, and may be easily
discovered.

Whoever will give information of the person or
persons, who thus impose on the publick, by making

use of my name to vend and sell such base Snuff, shall be handsomely rewarded, by their humble servant,

SIMON ELLIOT.

N. B. The publick are informed, that to prevent the above deception, the advertisements on bladders of Snuff, in future, will be altered from letter-press, to a copperplate impression. (2m)

Massachusetts Centinel.

The habit of Snuff-taking was formerly very prevalent in New England, as well as elsewhere. Within the writer's recollection it was a very common thing to see the snuff-box passed round for friends to take a pinch. Very few now a days indulge in this uncleanly habit; but a recent traveller relates that on visiting St. Peter's in Rome, the first thing upon entering the church which attracted his attention was seeing the Pope take a pinch of snuff and then shake from his pocket a large old-fashioned bandanna handkerchief, which he applied to his nose. Many years ago a gentleman of Salem was questioned by a stranger about a certain man who happened to be an inveterate snuff-taker and who was at the same time greatly interested in free-masonry. "Yes," said the gentleman, "I know

him.” — “He’s about one third masonry and two thirds snuff.” Mr. Francis H. Lee, of Salem, has a curious collection of a hundred or more snuff-boxes of former generations. They are of various patterns ; some are made of shell and tipped with silver, and look quite ancient. Simon Elliot, of Boston, and later Wm. Micklefield, of Salem, were famous snuff manufacturers.

A curious snuff-box, advertised in the “Columbian Centinel,” 1819.

A CURIOSITY.

E. COPELAND, Jr., has for sale a most elegant Gold SNUFF BOX set with Pearls, &c. It is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and from the top a beautiful *little Bird* rises at command and sings a tune. The movements of the wings, beak, eyes, &c. are perfectly natural, and all its motions while singing are in complete unison with its notes. This is probably as ingenious a piece of mechanism as was ever seen in this town. It will be sold a great bargain.

august 21

In this connection we notice “Micklefield’s Indian,” as it was called, a well-known land-

mark in Salem half a century ago. Mr. Micklefield was much respected, and noted for his liberality and public spirit.



THE Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that owing to the fall in prices of different Scents and Stock in general, that compose the article of Snuff, he is thereby enabled to sell his different kinds, viz.—Maccoboy, Scented and Plain Rappee and Scotch

SNUFFS,

at a much lower price than heretofore.—Traders in the neighboring towns that deal in those articles are particularly solicited to call at his Store, sign of the

Indian Chief, corner of Central and Front streets, where they can purchase at very low prices, and warranted of the first quality. ALSO,

Spanish, half Spanish and common

CIGARS,

Cavendish, Ladies' Twist, Pigtail, and all kinds of Manufactured

TOBACCO,

wholesale and retail.

WM. MICKLEFIELD.

Salem, Jan. 18, 1827.

tf



From the "Salem Mercury," Nov. 25, 1788.

S. Breck, Esq. member of the House of Representatives for Boston, appears in his seat with a complete suit of American manufactured broadcloth, of an elegant colour.



About 1787 and 1788, spinning-wheel meetings seem to have been very popular. We copy notices of meetings of young ladies in Attleboro', Dighton, Gloucester, Rehoboth, Mass., and Providence and Johnston, R. I., all from the "Salem Mercury."

ATTLEBORO', *June* 20. Yesterday, 63 respectable young ladies, belonging to this town, assembled, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at the house of Mr. Daniel Balkum, and, to the surprise and great satisfaction of all the friends to industry, spun, before sunset, 199 skeins of excellent linen yarn. Industry is the genuine source of all laudable pleasure. On it depend all the conveniences of life. Health, the greatest of blessings, depends on industry—beauty, on health. If ladies, then, wish to be beautiful, they must be industrious; they must animate their countenances with that blooming health which comes from the SPINNING-WHEEL. The fair sex, when rightly and industriously employed, are justly termed the beauty of this lower creation. Beauty without virtue is contemptible. Merit only gains the heart. Idleness is disgraceful. Industry is the ornament of wealth, the support and consolation of poverty. We hope soon to see the time, when the fair daughters of America will be clothed in the manufactures of their own hands. Happy are we, that some have already set the example. May it never be said, that American ladies rise 15 minutes later than the sun. May they ever have thread enough in their hands to make a halter for a Shays.

On Tuesday last, thirteen young ladies assembled, with their spinning-wheels, at the house of Mr. Joseph Whipple, in North-Providence, and, between the

hours of eight in the morning and six in the afternoon, completed fifty skeins of excellent linen yarn.

July 1, 1788.

The spinning-wheel, a few years ago imprudently neglected, begins to be held in general reputation by the Fair; and the exploits of some on that useful machine, are deservedly celebrated, as worthy of imitation. To those good works of female industry may be added the singular attachment of two young ladies in Dighton, who spun, the 11th instant, between the rising and setting of the sun, thirteen skeins and eleven lees of good linen yarn; one six skeins and seven, and the other seven skeins and four lees. The spirit of industry is becoming more prevalent, especially among the fair sex. They begin to lay aside their useless and idle visits, or, at least, make them less frequent. When persons become more industrious and mind their own business, they talk less, and to better purpose; they become more contented, and the world around them is more peaceable and happy.

Providence Gazette, July 1, 1788.

PROVIDENCE, May 24. On the 7th inst. 71 ladies met at the house of the Rev. Mr. Ellis, in Rehoboth,

and lodged 187 skeins of good linen yarn, which they had spun for Mrs. Ellis; and others have since added 31. Solomon, in describing a virtuous woman, says, "She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.—She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." Industry is certainly a virtue, which, while it adorns, enriches, society; it banishes the languid hue from the countenances of the fair, and adds vigour and vivacity to the mind.—The spirited exertions that the daughters of Columbia are making, to manufacture our wool and flax, which are necessary for our consumption, are praise-worthy, and demand the approbation and assistance of every true patriot. We flatter ourselves with the pleasing expectation of seeing the virtuous fair clothed and ornamented in the genuine productions of their own labour.

We hear from Gloucester, that on Thursday last nearly thirty young ladies, inspired with the love of industry, assembled at the house of Capt. Philemon Haskell, for the praise-worthy purpose of a Federal Spinning Match, when, to their honour, their spirited exertion produced 99 skeins of excellent yarn—practically declaring, that they neither laboured in vain or spent their strength for nought. The day thus industriously concluded, finished not the harmony of their federalism; in the evening, to crown the pleasure of the day, with additional company, they regaled

with an agreeable dance, and, at a modest hour, parted in love and friendship, with hearts convivial as they met, leaving others to admire their female patriotism, and to go and do likewise.

In Scotland, the farmers knit as well as the women of their families; but they do this while they are watching their sheep or cattle, or while they are sitting by their evening fire in winter. Why cannot our American farmers and their sons adopt this frugal practice? Time is the most precious thing in the world. Its very fragments should be saved.

PROVIDENCE, MAY 17. Monday last, eighteen young ladies assembled, with their spinning-wheels, at the house of Captain Jonathan Treadwell, and spun 40 skeins of good linen yarn.

MAY 22. A correspondent desires us to mention, that at Johnston, a few days since, four industrious young ladies, by "laying their fingers to the spindle, and their hands to the distaff," completed, in one day, the spinning and reeling of 21 fifteen-knotted skeins of good linen yarn. Would to God, that the Gentlemen at the head of our political affairs in this State, were half so zealous in encouraging our own manufactures, as the fair sex are; who, at present, deservedly bear the palm, as friends to their country.

“SPINNING BEE. On the 1st inst. assembled at the house of the Rev. Samuel Deane of this town, more than one hundred of the fair sex, married and single ladies, most of whom, were skilled in the important art of spinning. An emulous industry was never more apparent than in this beautiful assembly. The majority of fair hands gave motion to not less than sixty wheels. Many were occupied in preparing the materials, besides those who attended to the entertainment of the rest,—provision for which was mostly presented by the guests themselves, or sent in by other generous promoters of the exhibition, as were also the materials for the work. Near the close of the day Mrs. Deane was presented by the company, with two hundred and thirty-six, seven-knotted skeins of excellent cotton and linen yarn, the work of the day, excepting about a dozen skeins, which some of the company brought in ready spun. Some had spun six and many not less than five skeins apiece. She takes this opportunity of returning thanks to each, which the hurry of the day rendered impracticable at the time. To conclude and crown the day, a numerous band of the best fingers attended in the evening and performed an agreeable variety of excellent pieces in psalmody. “The price of a virtuous woman is far above rubies, * * * She layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff.”

Cumberland (Portland, Me.) *Gazette*, May 8, 1788, copied by EDW. H. ELWELL, Esq., editor of the *Transcript*.

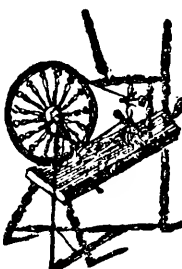
When spinning-wheels ceased to be used altogether, we are not able to say. Probably they were not in use for any great length of time after the opening of the present century; but possibly in some country places they were used down to the time of the War of 1812, and even later. We are informed that in some remote places in Rhode Island and in Maine spinning-wheels are in use to this day; but these are exceptional cases.

The "Massachusetts Centinel," April 30, 1788, has this advertisement:—

WILLIAM SCOTT,

At the Sign of the SPINNING
WHEEL,

In MARLBOROUGH-STREET,
(Resolving to quit Trade in the
Fall)



WILL sell all his
GOODS on hand at
the STERLING COST and
CHARGES. Among which
are,

Some elegant *Merfaillies* Bed-Quilts, *Merfaillies* Quilting in pieces, Irish Linens, Gauzes, Shawls and Leftrings of a superiour quality, &c. &c.

A large quantity of silk Gloves, Mitts and Fans

☞ CASH for POT-ASHES.

The following very curious notice in the "Massachusetts Centinel" in reference to funerals shows what had been customary upon such occasions; the object of these "wholesome regulations" seemed to be to induce economy. Gloves and rings were given to mourners in Salem to within the last fifty or sixty years, and wines or liquors were also furnished.



T A K E N O T I C E.

AN economical plan of mourning was adopted, before the Revolution, and its salutary effects have been experienced by almost every family in this town; since which those wholesome regulations have been passed into a law: Notwithstanding which, it has lately been broken in upon in several instances.—The *Inspectors of the Police*—that no one may hereafter plead ignorance, have caused the law respecting the same to be published, and give notice, that any future breach of it, will be prosecuted without any favour or affection.

Boston, April 30, 1788.

To prevent excess and vain expense, in Mourning, &c.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That in future no scarfs, gloves or rings shall be given at any funeral in this town, nor shall any wine, rum, or other spirituous liquor, be allowed or given at, or immediately before or after, any funeral in this

town, under pain that the person or persons giving, allowing or ordering the same shall respectively forfeit and pay the sum of *twenty shillings* for each offence.

And it is further ordered, That whatever male person shall appear or walk in the procession of any funeral in this town with any new mourning or new black or other new mourning coat or waistcoat, or with any other new black apparel, save and except a black crape around one arm, or shall afterwards on account of the decease of any relation, or other person or persons, put on and wear any other mourning than such piece of black crape around one arm, shall forfeit and pay the sum of *twenty shillings* for every day he shall put on and wear or appear in the same.

AND no female, of whatsoever degree, shall put on, wear or appear at any funeral in this town, in any other mourning or new black clothes whatever, other than a black hat or bonnet, black gloves, black ribbons and a black fan, on pain to forfeit and pay the sum of *twenty shillings*; and also forfeit and pay a like sum of *twenty shillings* for every day she shall at any time at, or after such funeral, put on wear or appear in such new black clothes, as or for mourning, other than black hat, bonnet, black gloves, black ribbons, and a black fan as aforesaid.

In 1790 the town of Salem published in the papers some regulations about funerals; among the fees fixed were these:—

“For each Tolling of the Bell 8d.”

“The sextons are desired to toll the Bells only four strokes in a minute.”

“The undertakers service in borrowing chairs, waiting upon the Pall-holders and warning the Relations &c. to attend 8/.”

“B. Daland and B. Brown are appointed by the Selectmen to see that Free Passages in the streets are kept open.” (This was before carriages were used at funerals.)

Extracts from Mr. Colman's Agricultural Address.

MANUFACTORIES AND THE SPINNING WHEEL.

“The establishment of extensive manufactories, and the introduction of power-looms and spinning-jennies, has nearly destroyed the usual household manufactures, and put our other Jennies out of employment. Our ears are seldom greeted now a days in the farmer's cottage with the flying of the shuttle, or the deep base of the spinning wheel. We confess that we have looked upon their departure with a strong feeling of regret; and deem it no small abatement of the advantages, which the establishment of extensive manufactures has obviously yielded to the country, that it removes the daughter from the shelter and security of the paternal roof, and places her in a situation, which certainly furnishes no means of qualifying her for the proper department of woman; to preside over our domestic establishments; to perform her part in the joint labors of the household; and to know how and when and where to use, prepare, and to apply to

the best advantage within doors, the products of man's labor without doors. Many occupations of female industry, strictly domestic however, of a healthy and agreeable nature, are constantly presenting themselves, so that there is little danger that the race of industrious women, and accomplished wives, at least among the country girls, will soon be extinct; and the silk culture, fast gaining ground among us, promises to furnish an unexhausted resource and a profitable employment of female labor."

Salem Observer, 1834.

In one of the numbers of the London "Spectator" for 1884 is an interesting account of an attempt to revive the spinning-wheel industry in England, through the kind offices of Mr. Albert Flemming, for the purpose of helping poor women too old or blind to leave their homes for other work. After considerable difficulty, a wheel was discovered among a store of ancient articles; but no one at first knew how to use it. Spinning was one of the lost arts, apparently. At length, however, an old woman of eighty-four was found who understood the use of the wheel. She taught Mr. Flemming how to spin. A few more old

wheels were found, and some new ones constructed. Then it was some time before a loom could be discovered. Eventually this was accomplished, and the art of weaving taught. The account says that twenty women who were unable otherwise to obtain a living, are now busily at work, happy in being able to provide for their families. They make, it may be added, a good strong, honest linen, specimens of which have been presented to Mr. Ruskin. This account is substantially from the "Living Age," Nov. 1, 1884.



